

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FENRYN.

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ANNUAL REPORT

for

THE YEAR 1938

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH.

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# ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1938

To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

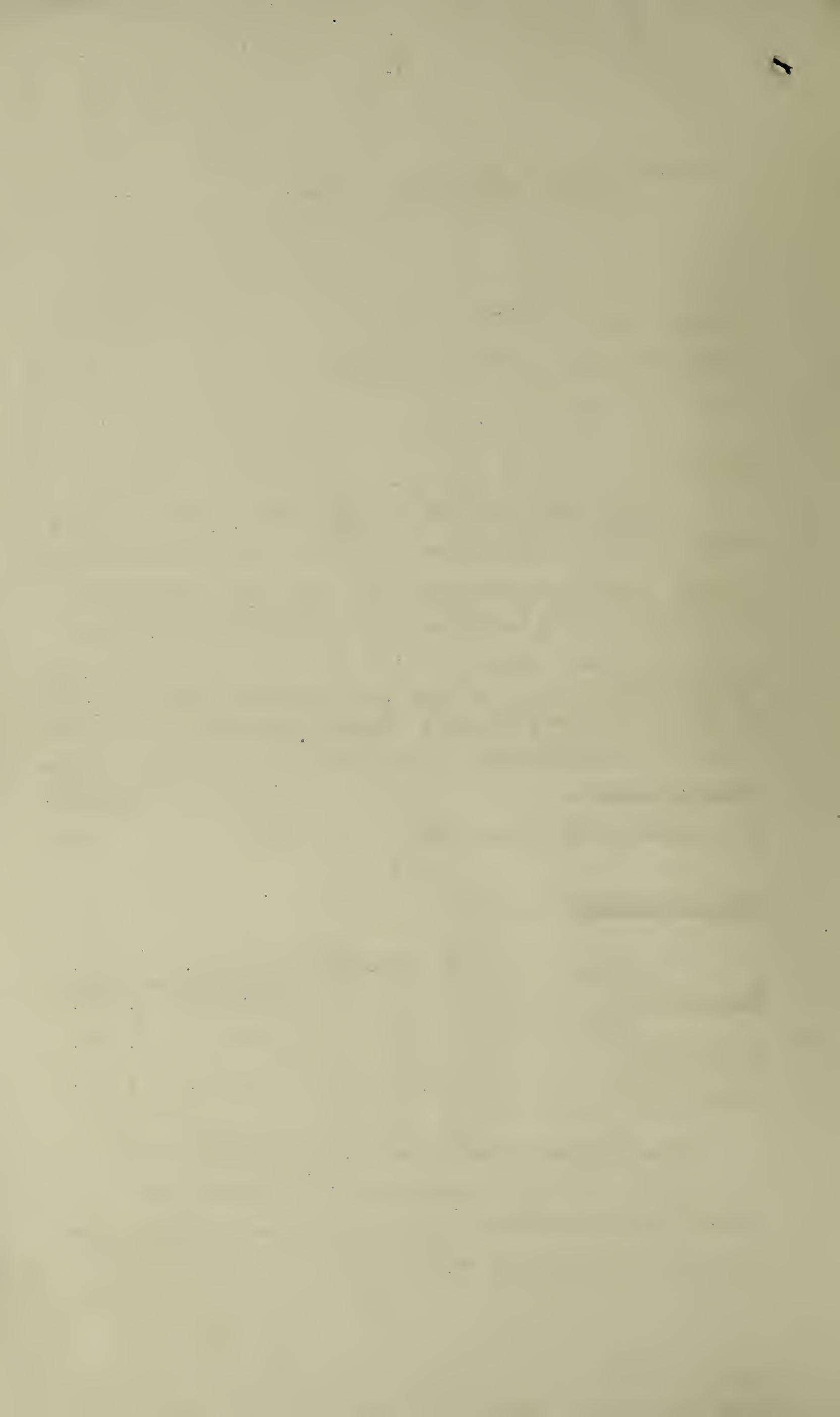
During the past year there has been no change of any note in the Social Circumstances of the Area and unemployment has remained at about the same level as in 1937, the fluctuations being largely due to variations in work at the Falmouth Docks.

Area in acres. . . . .	721.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population. . . .	3,793.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1938). . . . .	1,134.
Rateable Value. . . . .	£16,988.
Sum represented by a penny rate. . . . .	£65.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.	
<u>Live Births.</u>	30.	32.	62.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of population. 16.6
Legitimate.				
Illegitimate.	0.	1.	1.	
<u>Still Births.</u>	0.	0.	0.	
<u>Deaths.</u>	22.	34.	56.	

Giving a crude death-rate of 14.7 per 1,000 population. But this figure has to be corrected by multiplying by the Comparative Factor for the Area - in this case 0.89 which gives a corrected death-rate of 13.08.



Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. . . . . nil.
2. Other causes. . . . . nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :- 1. (Legitimate)

All infants per 1,000 live births. . . . .	15.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages). . . . .	7.
. . . . . Measles (all ages) . . . . .	nil.
. . . . . Whooping Cough (all ages). . . . .	nil.
. . . . . Diarrhoea (under 2 years). . . . .	nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health. J.N.L.Blaney., M.B. B.Ch. D.F.H.

(Part time who is also District Medical Officer under the Public Assistance Authority and Public Vaccinator).

Sanitary Inspector. J.F.Farris. A.R.S.I. (Half time) who also holds a certificate for Food Inspection.

(a). Laboratory Facilities.

All laboratory work required by this Authority is now undertaken by the Pathological Department of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary at Truro. This results in a great saving of time and the attendance personally of the pathologist when considered necessary. This Authority has no contract at present with the laboratory, but pays for each case individually.

(b). Ambulance Facilities.

These are the same as before and the service has been entirely satisfactory.





(c). Nursing in the home.

There is one district nurse provided by the local nursing association, who are given a grant-in-aid by the local Authority.

There are also two fully qualified nurses who do private practice in the district in addition to two or three partially trained.

(d). Treatment Centres and Clinics. The only Clinic in the Borough is the Infant Welfare Centre which is managed by a Committee of ladies and supervised by the M.O.H and the other Medical Practitioner on the Borough.

Hospitals.

During the past year the extensions to the Falmouth and District Hospital were finished and are now open. These provide some ten extra beds and already have proved their usefulness.

There is also a very modern and efficient X Ray and Massage and Electro-Therapy Department. All treatment is provided free to subscribers and members of the Contributory Scheme, which includes the great majority of the population of the Borough.

Nursing Homes.

There are no N. Homes in the Borough.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Water.

The supply, both as regards quality and quantity has been extremely satisfactory and I append some typical analyses, which are taken by the Falmouth Corporation at frequent intervals.

During the year the above Corporation increased this supply by putting in a pumping plant at Stickenbridge in Perran-ar-worthal District, and tapping the stream there, whence it is carried by a pipe-line to their reservoirs. I understand this is only a temporary scheme pending the enlargement of their present reservoirs.





(Copy).

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES:

91, Queen Victoria St. London. E.C.4.

John. F. Beale. M.A., F.R.C.S., D.P.H., Etc.  
Ernest Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Etc.

Ref: L. 4051.

5th: January 1938.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of  
Water Received. 31.12.37, from Falmouth Corporation.

Source. High Level Supply.

Taken & Sgd. by Gerald Cox, Witness. D.T. Anthony. 30-12-37.  
11 a.m.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millimetre  
of Water growing upon Agar at 20° C. in three days. 5.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millimetre  
of Water growing upon Agar at 37° C in one day 4.  
in two days 2.

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas  
in Pile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation  
at 37° C. Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of Water containing the Bacillus  
Coli. Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of Water giving the reaction of  
the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes). Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a clear and bright water, of the highest  
degree of bacterial purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for the  
purposes of public supply.

(Signed) John. F. Beale.

For Drs. Beale & Suckling.



(Copy).

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

91, Queen Victoria St. London E.C.4.

John F. Beale. M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Etc.  
Ernest Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Etc..

Ref: 4052.

5th: January 1938.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of  
Water received 31.12.37. from Falmouth Corporation.

Source. Low Level Supply.

Taken & Sgd. by Gerald Cox. Witness: D.T. Anthony. 30-12-37  
11.30 a.m.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millimetre  
of Water growing upon Agar at 20° C in three days. 3.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millimetre  
of Water growing upon Agar at 37° C. in one day. 1.  
in two days. 3.

Smallest quantity of Water producing acid and gas in  
Eile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at  
37° C. Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli.  
Absent in 100 c.c.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the  
B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes). Absent in 100 c.c.

This is a clear and bright water of the highest  
degree of bacterial purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for  
the purposes of public supply.

(Signed) John F. Beale.

for Drs. Beale & Suckling.



(Copy).

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.91, Queen Victoria Street, London E.C.4.

John F. Beale., M.A., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., Etc.

Ernest W. Suckling., M.P., B.S., D.P.H., Etc.

Ref. N. 1599.

11th: June 1938.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 2-6-38. from Falmouth Corporation.

Labelled Tap in High Level Meter House.

Taken by W.S.H. Brooks. Witness T. Gilbert. Date 1-6-38 11.25 a.m.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000

Appearance	Clear and Bright.		
Colour	Normal.	Odour	Nil.
Reaction pH.	On the acid side of Neutrality 6.7	Free Carbonic Acid	0.35
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	150		
Total Solids. 180° C.	10.5		
Chlorine in Chlorides.	2.6		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.32	Nitrates absent.	
Hardness: Permanent	3.0	Temporary	0.0
		<u>Total</u>	<u>3.0</u>
Metals.	Absent.		
Free Ammonia	0.0012	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	--
Albuminoid Ammonia.	0.0080	Albuminoid Nitrogen	--
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80° F	0.085		

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C	3.
1 day at 37° C	1.
2 days at 37° C	2.

The Bacillus Coli... Present in - Absent in 100 c.c

Bacillus Welchii. .

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes) Present in -- Absent in 100 c.c.

Report. This sample is clear and bright, of normal colour, and approximately neutral in reaction. It contains no excess of saline or mineral matter, is soft in character, and free from metals.

It is of good organic and bacterial purity and is considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for purposes of public supply.

(Signed) E. W. Suckling.







(Copy).

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.  
91, Queen Victoria Street, London E.C. 4.

John F. Beale, M.A., D.F.H., M.R.C.S., Etc.  
Ernest W. Suckling, M.B., B.S., D.F.H., Etc.

Ref. M. 1600.

11th: June 1938.

Analysis of a sample of Water received on 2-6-38 from Falmouth  
Corporation.

Labelled Tap in Low Level Sampling House.

Taken by W.S.H. Brooks. Witness T. Gilbert. Date 1-6-38. 12 noon.

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000

Appearance	Clear and Bright.		
Colour	Very faint yellow.	Odour	Nil.
Reaction pH.	V. Ft. acid 6.6	Free Carbonic Acid	0.40
Electric Conductivity at 20° C	150		
Total Solids, 180° C.	10.5		
Chlorine in Chlorides.	2.6		
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.32.	Nitrates	absent.

Hardness:	Permanent	3.0.	Temporary	0.0	<u>Total</u>	<u>3.0</u>
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Metals	Iron	0.003
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Free Ammonia	0.0004	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	--
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Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0132	Albuminoid Nitrogen.
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Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80° F 0.155

Bacteriological Results.

No of Bacteria per c.c or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20° C	2.
1 day at 37° C	0.
2 days at 37° C	1.

The Bacillus Coli..	Present in -	Absent in	100 c.c
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Bacillus Welchii..

(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Present in -	Absent in	100 c.c.
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Report: This sample is clear and bright, has a very faint yellow colour, and is very faintly acid in reaction.

It is soft in character, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, only a slight trace of iron, and is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

It is considered a wholesome water, suitable for purposes of public supply.

(Signed) E.V. Suckling.



(Copy).

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES;

91, Queen Victoria Street, London E.C. 4.

30th July 1938.

Beale &amp; Suckling

Ernest V. Suckling, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.H.

## REPORT ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER

Received 26-7-38 From Falmouth Corporation.

Labelled Tap in High Level Meter House.

Date 25-7-38. 2.40 pm.

Taken by W.S.H. Brooks. Witness D.T. Anthony. Signed W.S.H. Brooks.

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Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of Water growing upon Agar at 37° C: in 1 day.	0.
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of Water growing upon Agar at 37° C: in 2 days.	0.
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of Water growing upon Agar at 20° C: in 3 days.	1.
Smallest quantity of Water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37° C (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of Water containing the Bacillus Coli.	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of Water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	Absent in 100 c.c.

This sample is clear and bright and of a high degree of bacterial purity in which respects it is pure and wholesome water, suitable for purposes of public supply.

(Signed) E. V. Suckling.



(Copy)

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES,91, Queen Victoris Street, London E.C.1.

30th: July 1938.

Beale &amp; Suckling.

Ernest V. Suckling., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.F.H.,

## REPORT ON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Received 26-7-38. From Falmouth Corporation.

Labelled Tap in Low Level Sampling House

Date 25-7-38. 3.10 pm.

Taken by W.S.H.Brooks. Witness D.T.Anthony. Signed W.S.H.Brooks.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37° C in 1 day.	0.
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37° C in 2 days.	3.
Number of colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 20° C in 3 days.	5.
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37° C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B.Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes).	Absent in 100 c.c.

This sample is clear and bright and of a high degree of  
bacterial purity in which respects it is pure and wholesome  
water, suitable for the purposes of public supply.

(Signed) E. V. Suckling.





Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension of main sewers. All new houses have been connected with sewers, after their drains have been tested by smoke under pressure.

Closet Accomodation.

Nearly all of the few remaining houses not provided with flush-tanks have now been so provided.

Rivers and Streams.

No action taken during the year. Streams periodically cleaned.

Public Cleansing.

No changes under this head.

Shops and Offices.

These are periodically inspected but no action was found to be necessary under the Shops Acts or Public Health Act.

Camping Sites.

There were none in the Area.

Smoke Abatement.

No action needed.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

None in Area.

Eradication of bed-bugs.

1. 3 Council houses were found to be infested.
2. These were disinfested. The methods used being Sulphur fumigation, Zaldecyde and Lamvercide Sprays - Skirting-boards and picture mouldings removed and renewed.
3. Houses of people are inspected before they become tenants of Council houses.



4. The work is carried out by the Council in the case of their own property, but landlords of property where bugs are known to exist are given notice to abate the nuisance.

### Schools.

The Sanitary arrangements in the two schools are still obsolete as reported before. But they are kept very clean, the water supply is adequate and no real nuisance exists.

### HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :-
  - (1). (a). Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). . . 210.
  - (b). Number of inspections made for the purpose. . . 260.
  - (2). (a). Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. . . 70.
  - (b). Number of inspections made for the purpose. . . 115.
  - (3). Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. . . . . 16.
  - (4). Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. . . . . 45.
2. Remedy of defects during the Year without service of formal Notices.
 

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. . . . . 18.



## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :-

## (a). Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. . . . .	25.
(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices . . . . .	25.
(a). By Owners. . . . .	25.
(b). By Local Authority in default of owners. . . . .	nil.

## (b). Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. . . . .	36.
(2). Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. . . . .	36.
(a) By Owners. . . . .	36.
(b). By Local Authority in default of Owners. . . . .	nil.

## (c). Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. . . . .	1.
(2). Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. . . . .	nil.

## (d). Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. . . . .	nil.
(2). Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit. . . . .	nil.

## 4. Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding :-

(a). (1). Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year. . . . .	15.
(2). Number of families dwelling therein. . . . .	15.
(3). Number of persons dwelling therein. . . . .	80.
(b). Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. . . . .	8.
(c). (1). Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. . . . .	9.
(2). Number of persons concerned in such cases. . . . .	54.





During the year no new houses were erected by this Authority, but, in view of the fact that more working-class houses are still needed negotiations have been taking place for a suitable site.

The 11 houses at Mill Head and College Row, which constituted our No.1 Clearance Scheme have been demolished and the site cleared.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Milk.

All cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected and such samples that have been taken for bacteriological analysis have proved satisfactory. The conditions under which milk is being produced, though still far from perfect are showing a steady improvement.

#### Fish Carts.

These are occasionally unspected on their rounds in the Town. No complaints.

#### Meat and other Foods.

Shops where meat is exposed for sale are regularly inspected, as also are stalls and vehicles etc.

The four Slaughter Houses in the Borough are regularly inspected - No action under this heading was necessary during the year.

#### Number of Beasts inspected.

Cows. . . . .	88.
Bullocks and Steers. . . . .	170.
Calves. . . . .	277.
Sheep and lambs. . . . .	286.
Pigs. . . . .	4002.

#### Condemned as unfit :-

Pigs. . . . .	11.
Cows. . . . .	1.
Pig's Plucks. . . . .	24.



CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<u>Cattle ex- cluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed (if known)	170.	88.	277.	286.	4522.
Number inspected.	170.	88.	250.	226.	4002.
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	--	--	--	--	6.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	--	--		--	24.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	--	--	--	--	0.75%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned.	--	1.	--	--	5.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	--	--	--	--	24.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.		1.1%	--	--	0.72%

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

None undertaken.

Adulteration etc. No action taken.

Nutrition. No steps taken, other than at Infant Welfare Centre.

Shell-fish. There are no shell-fish beds in the District.



Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

During the past year we have had more than our share of infectious illness. In the last week of 1937 a fulminating and fatal case of diphtheria occurred which proved to be the forerunner of seventeen others, two of these also proving fatal.

All the cases, except one, occurred amongst scholars at the Church of England School or were direct contacts.

The early cases were of a very severe type, but in all those cases in which medical aid was sought at the outset the outcome was satisfactory and without complications. The cases were by no means confined to one or even two classrooms, but showed a tendency to fall into groups corresponding to districts in the town where the affected children resided, which suggested that infection occurred rather on the way to and from school than actually in school. With the help and co-operation of the pathologist at Truro, Dr Hocking, a large number of swabs of contacts were taken and in the first instance two carriers were isolated and excluded. With the help of the headmaster a careful watch was kept for any child with a sore throat or cold and by the middle of March the epidemic appeared to have stopped.

Incidentally strict attention had been paid to the school buildings which were closed for a few days so that they could be thoroughly cleansed and fumigated. A fresh case however, occurred at the beginning of May and then a further group of five cases in September and October.





In consequence of this fresh outbreak I took a further batch of swabbings from contacts and found 4 or 5 positives amongst them. These were isolated and up to now no further cases have occurred. Of the 13 cases 12 were removed to Isolation hospitals, 3 to Truro City Isolation hospital and the remaining 9 to Falmouth I. Hospital. The other 6 cases were nursed at home. The expense of this epidemic to the Borough was very considerable, but the Council never flinched from their obligations and backed me up in whatever action I thought fit to take.

The lessons to be learnt from this outbreak are, firstly, the vital importance of medical aid being sought at the earliest possible moment, and secondly the need for some scheme of prophylactic immunization to be adopted in schools, especially when children first go to school. Finally this Council may well ask itself whether, in the event of an epidemic of this or any other sort occurring again, it could not make different arrangements with neighbouring authorities for isolation, such as an annual payment giving a call on a certain number of beds if required.

Of other notifiable diseases there were 2 of Erysipelas, one of which was removed to Isolation Hospital, 3 of Pneumonia and one of puerperal fever.

Of non-notifiable diseases there was a moderately severe outbreak of Influenza in the Spring, a widespread, but mild epidemic of Measles in the Summer and an outbreak of Whooping Cough in the late Autumn.

As a local authority no active immunization has been undertaken either in the case of Diphtheria or Measles.



Notifiable diseases during 1938.

The following notifiable cases occurred during the year :-

<u>Diphtheria.</u>	17 cases:	11 in age group	5 to 10 years.
	1 .. ..	45 .. 65 ..	
	6 .. ..	10 .. 15 ..	

12 Cases were removed to Hospital. There were 2 deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia. 1 case - not removed to hospital. 0 deaths.

Pneumonia. 3 cases. 1 death.

Erysipelas. 2 cases. 1 admitted to hospital. 1 death.

Prevention of Blindness. No action has been taken by this  
Authority under this head.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There was only one fresh case notified during the year. This was a Male Pulmonary age 45. There were 3 deaths, all pulmonary, 2 males aged 54 and 72 and one female aged 42. One of these cases has not previously been notified as it had been considered as Silicosis.

The occupation in the district which affects the incidence of and mortality from Tuberculosis is the granite industry with its tendency to produce silicosis and secondary phthisis.

Improvement in methods and the more general use of open sheds has lessened the incidence, as also has the fact that young persons are not now admitted into the industry unless they are of average physique.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLANEY.

May 1939.

